

Marines Train Men To Withstand Brainwashing

BRIDGEPORT, Calif. (AP — The guard's face twists as he sneers at the American Marine: "You're nothing but a tool being used by superiors who are warmongers sitting back in warm offices. You are nothing!"

The interrogator is applying mental pressure, uncertainty — brainwashing.

The scene, far removed from any battle zone, is the Marine Corps' Survival School — set in chilly, desolate isolation in the Sierra near the California-Nevada border.

For two weeks the sneering guard and his fellows pound U.S. Marines with verbal harassment.

Sgt. Antonio Lopez — the sneering guard — is attempting to teach fellow Marines what to expect should they fall into ene-

my hands.

To Lopez and the "prisoners" the mock prison camp is no joke. What Lopez teaches them could save their lives — and they are constantly reminded of this.

Thousands of Marines — officers and enlisted men — have trained in the rugged special school, started in 1951 after U.S. servicemen experienced harsh treatment in prisoner of war camps in Korea.

Each week about 80 Marines are put through the rough paces. The school is the only one of its kind in the Marine Corps, but similar to others operated by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

Classes have been accelerated since Americans went to South Viet Nam.

"We have many personnel

through here on their way to Viet Nam, including pilots who could crash and be cut off from all their friends," Lopez said.

Sgt. Lopez, a Korean war veteran, says that Marines aren't being trained to be prisoners. They must be able to handle the worst, he said.

"Marines have to be in good shape before they come here," the instructor said. "But after they leave, they could run uphill and fight a bear."